

# *The Messenger*

First Reformed Church of Scotia  
224 North Ballston Avenue  
Scotia, NY 12302

The Rev. Craig J. Hoffman

The Rev. Jan L. Hoffman

Volume 62, Number 2

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From  
Craig's  
Desk

## The Bible

Last week we watched President Obama take the oath of office with his hand on the same Bible Abraham Lincoln used for that purpose. It's one of our national treasures; so much so that the good people at the National Archives asked that it not be opened.

One wonders if those same good people haven't had their way elsewhere in our land. Last December *The Economist* magazine published an article on the marketing and selling of holy books. In it the authors noted the following:

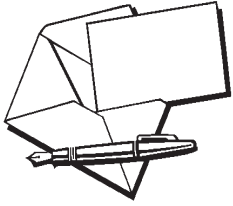
Americans buy more than 20 million new Bibles every year to add to the four that the average American home already has. Yet the state of American biblical knowledge is abysmal. A Gallup survey found that less than half of Americans can name the first book of the Bible, only a third know who delivered the Sermon on the Mount (Billy Graham is a popular answer), a quarter do not know what is celebrated at Easter . . . and 60 percent cannot name half of the Ten Commandments.

Okay. Okay. It's not fair for the minister to take cheap shots at people who aren't as familiar with the content of the Bible as he is. After all, I have been blessed in my life by being raised in a family and by a community where learning the scriptures was valued. I have been doubly blessed for being fond of learning what it says, for learning how others have sought meaning in its pages, and for seeking meaning there for myself as well. And I have been triply blessed in having been given the time and means to study it rigorously and with excellent guides. Most cannot say that, and you should not let me forget that. Nor should you let me forget that most of Christian history has elapsed before there were printing presses. In past centuries all Bibles were treasures because they were painstakingly hand copied, one at a time.

The truth of the matter is that the Bible becomes truly valuable not when it sits prominently on our end tables or bookshelves, not even when its words are read or spoken, but when God's spirit speaks through those words into the life of a person or a community transforming the way we live and the criteria by which we measure our lives. So may it be for you, for me, and for the community we share together this coming year.



## Notes From Our Friends



Dear Friends,

I am very grateful again this past Christmas to be remembered with a lovely plant. Thank you very much. It was delivered on a Sunday afternoon.

Sincerely,

*Lenore Bethka*

Dear Church Family,

My sincere thanks to Mike and Wendy Carpenter for the delightful visit and for the poinsettia they brought to me.

Sincerely,

*Helen Blase*

Dear Church Family,

Many thanks to Ann Armstrong for delivering the lovely poinsettia to me. I also have appreciated the thoughtful mailings from The Sharing and Caring Group, plus good thoughts, prayers and wishes from members. God bless you all in 2009.

*Betty Bogardus*

Dear Friends,

Thanks for the Christmas cards. I didn't get to church because it was too cold. Thank you also for the lovely poinsettia.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Botsford*

Dear Church Family,

Just want to convey my appreciation for the many good thoughts, prayers, cards and the visit with flowers from Linda Shaw. Even though it has only been a little over a week since my surgery, I am feeling almost pain free (except for when the Physical "Terrorist" visits.) Thanks again.

*Mary Jane Crowley*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant that Marian Gilgore brought to our home. We are very fortunate to have a devoted church family.

*Barbara and Edwin Harland*

Dear Church Family,

Many thanks to Tina Haldeman who delivered a beautiful poinsettia which graces the door to my apartment here at Coburg Village for all to enjoy.

Wishing my friends at First Reformed a good 2009.

*Zilpha Kirk*

Dear All,

Thanks to many for your lovely Christmas cards for my mom Ardis. She continues to live at the Solon Care Center (a lovely place) and is doing a bit better since she was taken off most of her meds. Her memory is very poor, but she still loves to chat and smiles and laughs quite a bit. She will be 92 this month. Thanks again to all who continue to keep her in your thoughts.

With warm wishes to all for 2009.

*Martha Schut*

## Valentine Lunch Will Be Held For Seniors

## Join Us For The Fowler Spaghetti Dinner



This invitation is to all “Seniors” who would like to join the youth on **Sunday, February 15**. We will have a time of fellowship followed by a piping hot soup luncheon served by our youth group. This is a wonderful time to get to know one another. Be sure to sign up on the board next to Pastor Craig’s office so we can estimate how much to prepare.

We will hold our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner for Camp Fowler scholarships on Saturday evening, March 14, from 4:00 to 7:00. Our traditional Cake Auction will begin at 4:45. Our goal is to raise \$3,000 or more for at least thirty \$100 scholarships to help youth from our church experience a week of Christian camping this summer. Make your dinner plans now and get your tickets early. We save time serving dinner if you have purchased your tickets ahead of time.

Our spaghetti supper is a great way for you to get involved. You can help cook, bake, serve or clean up, and have fun doing it. Coordinator for Christian Living Sunny Baldwin and Christian Ed Council member Amanda Faulkner are coordinating the dinner this year with help from others. Here are ways that you can help:

- **Table Crew:** Thursday, March 12, we need strong backs to set up the dining tables. Friday morning the tables will be set. Saturday night we need people to help put away tables and clean up Brink Hall. Saturday night, you can begin work at 7:00. This is one of the most important tasks!
- **Food Prep:** We need help making and cooking meatballs, making sauce, cooking the spaghetti and making salad. We need an ice-maker, and someone to pick up bread late Saturday morning.
- **Food Servers:** These folks fill the plates with spaghetti and meatballs, serve the salad, cut the cakes and prepare the take out meals.
- **Dish & Pot-Cleaning Crew:** What would we do if we didn’t have enough dishes to serve the meals? This is a very important behind the scenes task.
- **Bake a Cake:** We need 25 fancy cakes for Bob Baldwin to auction off to diners. Our cake auction is great entertainment and raises a lot of money – last year over \$800! Whose cake will get the highest bid this year? Bring your cake to the church that day anytime between 8:00 and 12:00 in the morning, or between 2:30 and 4:30 in the afternoon.
- Not a fancy baker? We need 20 not-so-fancy cakes for the 300 or so desserts we hope to serve. Bring them to church same times as above.
- **Wait on Tables:** We need three shifts of both youth and adults to wait on tables and clean them off: 3:45 to 5:30, 5:00 to 6:30, and 5:30 to 7:15. Each year we have so much fun with young and old working together. Let’s do it again!
- **Sell Tickets/Buy Tickets:** Help spread the word and sell tickets to neighbors, co-workers and friends. We need help selling tickets during coffee hour on Sundays, beginning February 15. Sign-up sheets will also be up soon, so sign-up early to help out for this important event!

Tickets will be on sale weekly in Brink Hall during our 11:00 coffee hours. They will also be available at the door. A spaghetti dinner costs adults \$8, \$5 for children 5-12. Or you may get a family ticket for \$25. At any rate, children under 5 eat free. Sign-up sheets are posted outside of the Nursery. Make sure your name is included, or graciously accept when you get “the call.” If you can’t sign up, contact Dinner Coordinator Sunny Baldwin, 374-9276 or csunnyb@nycap.rr.com, or Amanda Faulkner, 399-5736. They’ll be coming around during coffee hours to ask for your help!

## Angel Tree Recipients Send Thanks

We gave 75 Christmas presents to clients at Northeast Parent & Child Society. We've received several thank you notes from the recipients, including notes from the managers of their cases, who took the gifts to the families.

See the notes on the bulletin board outside the Nursery. Thank you for your generosity. Even when we don't know the recipient, it is a blessing to give from our abundance.

## Lenten Retreats Will Be Held At Fowler

During the season of Lent Christians look inward and take inventory of their spiritual lives. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on February 25. It lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays) until Easter, April 12 this year. You are invited to make time for a personal retreat at Camp Fowler during the Lenten week of March 29 – April 3. Guests stay in a private room in the Chi Rho House for \$35 per night, and may stay as long as they wish. The Chi Rho House has rooms with twin beds and private baths. Linens are provided. Light breakfasts, lunches, and full dinners are served. Ministers of Albany Synod lead times of prayer throughout the day for guests who wish to participate.

## February Food Pantry Needs Listed

Every week in the bulletin we publish the food that is the most needed for the Schenectady Inner City Ministry food pantry. Below are the items needed in February. Please place your donations in the container in the narthex or in the one outside Brink Hall. What a great offering we would give if **everyone** brought the weekly item!

There is **always** a big need for brown paper bags as well as monetary donations. Donations are used to purchase milk certificates and other items available at the Regional Food Bank for just 16 cents a pound. Make out your check to the First Reformed Church of Scotia and put "SICM Food Pantry" on the memo line.

- February 1: Canned Pasta
- February 8: Juice
- February 15: Baby Food
- February 22: Canned Fruit

## Fowler Needs High School Volunteers

Interested in "S.W.i.M." Lessons? *Students Working in Ministry* is a leadership-training program offered by our Fowler Camp and Retreat Center for high school students who have completed at least the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. These students receive a weekend of training, in return for which they then work for two weeks at Fowler during the summer. They get hands-on experience in ministry. There are only a few spots left for this summer season. If you are interested, don't wait. Contact Debra Batcher at the Albany Synod office, 374-4573, and ask for an application. Or go online to the Fowler website at <http://www.campfowler.org/forms.html>.

Several of our teenagers have already applied. How about you?

## Young Adults Offered Time At Camp Fowler

This Spring young adults, 18 to 30 years old, have an opportunity at Camp Fowler for a time of reflection on their spiritual journey. Beginning Friday, May 29 with dinner through Tuesday, June 2 will be a time of worship, reflection, quiet time, and work around the camp. **Pilgrimage** costs \$100 for meals and lodging. The purpose of this time is not a traditional "camp" experience, but is intentionally contemplative.

Speak to one of the pastors if you're interested. Pastor Jan is planning on attending and will help provide leadership. Go to the Fowler website, [www.campfowler.org](http://www.campfowler.org) or call the Fowler office, 374-4573, to register or find out more information.



## **Ash Wednesday Service Offered**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the season of the Church Year when we look inward and take inventory of our spiritual lives and of the directions we are heading in life. This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 25. We will mark this beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday worship in our Sanctuary at 7:30. Join others from your church family for a quiet service of reflection and prayer. Those who find it meaningful will be able to have a mark of ashes placed on their foreheads as a sign of repentance. Let Ash Wednesday worship help you begin an important and faithful Lenten season.

## **Find Out Who Is On Your Consistory**

Our 2009 consistory met for the first time on Monday, January 12 and organized itself for the responsibilities before it.

This year's officers of consistory are: Craig Hoffman, President; Jan Hoffman, Vice-President; Richard Doyle, Elder Vice-President; and Jim Penn, Clerk.

Elders Richard Doyle and Linda Shaw are this year's elder delegates to Schenectady Classis.

Councils assist the consistory in planning and organizing the ministries and activities of our church. Membership on one of our councils is open to anyone who is part of our worshipping community, church member and friend alike. Moreover, unlike consistory whose members are called and elected, council members can volunteer. Are you interested in serving on one of our councils? Speak to Pastors Craig or Jan Hoffman. They'll tell you more. There's room on one for you. Here are this year's council leaders:

- Administration Council: Richard Doyle and Al Carter
- Buildings & Grounds Council: Phil Davis and Jim Penn
- Christian Education Council: Pam Walsh and Chris Bodden
- Congregational Care Council: Linda Shaw and Barb Robinson
- Missions Council: Bill Faulkner and Mike Carpenter
- Worship Council: Dan Brudos and Rebecca Jarczyński

Have you ever wondered what your Consistory does? Read the minutes of their meetings and find out. Your Consistory posts a copy of its most recently approved meeting minutes on the bulletin board outside of the Pastors' offices. Have questions about what you read? Ask either of your pastors or any other member of your Consistory. Their names are printed regularly in the bulletin and are part of the posted minutes.

## **Don't Forget Our Souper Bowl**

Each year on Super Bowl Sunday, when many gather for football and snacks, churches all over the country have fun raising extra funds for their local food pantries as a way to help people who aren't able to afford the extras that so many of us enjoy. On Sunday, February 1, we will have specially marked cans around the church for our "Souper Bowl" offerings. The money we collect that day will be given to the SICM Food Pantries. Last year we collected \$260 – let's give more this year!

## **New Synod Executive Announced**

Albany Synod, made up of the 100 or so Reformed Churches in Upstate New York, has named the Rev. Dr. Harold Delhagen its new Synod Executive. Harold has served several churches in Albany Synod, most recently the Pultneyville Reformed Church where our own Pastor Craig Hoffman served before coming here. Harold will be commissioned as our Synod Executive in a service of worship in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, March 8 at 4:00. You are warmly invited to attend.



**Book Group  
Announces  
Newest  
Selections**

Join other readers in your church family at 7:15 on the third Tuesday of the month for a discussion of a good book, and what that book may show us about our faith or about the world in which we live out our faith. We meet in the Lakehill Room. There is no need to sign up - just read the book and join in. Here's the schedule:

- Tuesday, February 17, Carolyn Norris leads a discussion of Annie Dillard's novel, *The Maytrees*. Set in post-war Privitytown on Cape Cod, *The Maytrees* depicts bonds of loyalty, friendship and love, as well as nature's vastness and nearness. Carolyn says, "Read it carefully. It is laced with Annie Dillard's wisdom and wit."
- Tuesday, April 21, Dave Walsh leads a discussion of Marilyn Robinson's novel, *Home*. *Home* is the story of the Boughton family members as they return home to their ailing father, a minister in a small Iowa town. Their stories of coming home are told in Robinson's graceful prose, as the characters cope with their Biblical past and their spiritual present.

**Family Finances  
Given For  
January**

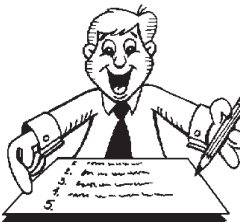
Each month we report our giving. Here's how we gave in January.

<u>GIVING</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
January	\$22,390	\$24,934	\$2,544	(10%)
Total for the Year	\$22,390	\$24,934	\$2,544	(10%)

**Here Is Our  
Attendance  
For January**

We report our monthly worship attendance in *The Messenger*. We hope this will encourage you to faithfully gather on the Lord's Day, and invite others to join you.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
January week #1	212	249
January week #2	135	275
January week #3	217	237
January week #4	221	324
January Average	196	271
YTD Average	196	271



**Offering  
Envelopes Are  
Available For  
Our Youth**

Since we have had several "snow days", boxes of offering envelopes for our youth and children are still available in their Sunday School classrooms. The offering envelopes help youth become systematic givers, which is an important part of their faith journey.

The classes decided that the Winter Term offerings will be used to help offset expenses for the Youth Mission Trip to Pass Christian, MS this coming April. Offerings are received when the plates are passed in worship. The envelopes are counted separately and individual giving records will be kept this year. The children and congregation will receive reports of contributions to the chosen mission project.

If you have questions or you need further information, please call Coordinator of Christian Living Sunny Baldwin at home, 374-9276, or at church, 370-4751, or email her at [frcssbaldwin@choiceonemail.com](mailto:frcssbaldwin@choiceonemail.com).

**How Do We  
Get Rid Of Our  
Snow?**

Want to know how our walks and parking lots are kept free from snow? Mr. Clyde Beck helps shovel snow and run the snow blower when our walks need it. Make sure you say Hi to Clyde if you pass him while he's working. Please make sure to greet and say thank you to Erv Grant and to Mark Lansing when you see them as well. Erv and Mark use their own equipment to plow our parking lots -- not just on Sunday mornings, but throughout the week. We appreciate them A LOT!

## Youth Group Meets In February

FROGS, the youth in Grades 4-8, will meet twice during February. The plans are as follows:

- Sunday, February 1 - Meet in Room 1 at 11:45. Lunch will be served. Following lunch we will make our "secret" favors and lunch foods for the Senior Luncheon. We will end with a time for winter games. Bring \$1 to cover the cost of lunch.
- Sunday, February 15 - Meet in the kitchen as soon as your class is out or after your music rehearsals finish. We need to set up tables and chairs so we will be ready to host our Senior Luncheon by 12 noon. This is a time of fun, food and fellowship so we need everyone to participate!

## Volunteers Wanted For Downtown Ambassadors

“Downtown Ambassadors” is a program of The Third Way, a cooperative venture between City Mission and 1<sup>st</sup> Reformed Church of Schenectady. Downtown Ambassadors are volunteers who are partnered with a trained City Mission client for two hours, 6:00 to 8:00, on selected evenings once every month or two. Based out of Proctors, these two-person teams greet and welcome people coming downtown for an evening’s entertainment. They also serve as extra eyes and ears for the downtown security personnel. Interested? Contact Third Way Coordinator Art Hudak at 424-9526.

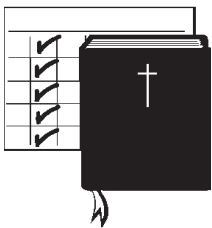
## Find Out How Our Pipe Organ Works

Church Organist Dr. Barbara Adler will offer an *Introduction to the Organ* on Sunday morning, February 8 from 11:30 to 12:15 in the sanctuary. This is for anyone who has ever wondered how a pipe organ works, how it makes all its different sounds, and how an organist uses multiple keyboards as well as pedals to interpret and lead the church’s music. There is a reason the pipe organ has been called the “King of Instruments.” Come and find out.

## Table Talk Begins New Session

Table Talk is a Sunday morning adult education time. Table Talk meets from 11:30 to 12:15 in our Memorial Lounge. Currently Pastor Jan Hoffman is leading a five-week session on what it means to be Reformed and missional, that is, in mission to our community. This is a conversation that is taking place throughout the Reformed Church in America. The weekly sessions use a DVD and guided discussion for our time together – you don’t have to prepare ahead of time. Come to one or all of the sessions, learn more about your church. This class is open to everyone, friend and member alike.

## Check Out The New Discipleship Project



Last month, our School for Christian Living (SCL) has launched a new adventure called *The Discipleship Project: Making Disciples*. This project, which helps to promote our adult spiritual education, is for any adult who wishes to participate.

Our goal is to have the adults of the congregation earn 500 credits this year. The recent Epiphany Retreat started us off with 36 credits. You’ll find a new bulletin board between Pastor Jan and Craig’s offices labeled *The Discipleship Project*. Course cards are available with information about opportunities throughout the area. As more information comes in, new cards will be created. Each card will have the name of the opportunity, a brief description of the course, location, any cost, and the number of credits. Our goal is to have every adult earn 5 credits, and our whole church together will earn 500 credits.

There are opportunities that can be done in the privacy of your own home for those that cannot get out or are unable to attend classes. We will continue to have Table Talk and Mid-Week studies. As we are aware of Retreats and Courses we will keep you posted about the new events. There should be something for everyone.

When you have completed your course, return the card to the envelope on the bulletin board. If you have signed the card, your name will be posted with the others who are earning credits. If you do not wish to have your name posted, return the card so that the church goal can be met. The church that originated this project actually exceeded their goal the first year. Can we do the same thing?

Any questions, see Sunny Baldwin, Coordinator of Christian Living or feel free to call her at home, 374-9276.

## **Do You Know About Our Cemeteries?**

Did you know that our church has three cemeteries? We do – the one in front of the church, of course, but also the Sanders Cemetery on Ballston Avenue south of the church, and Park Cemetery on Sacandaga Road. Park Cemetery is our only active cemetery where there are still vacant burial and urn garden sites for people to purchase.

Properly managing a cemetery is a big responsibility. Records need careful keeping. Mowing, pruning, plowing and general maintenance all need faithful attention. Moreover, funds need to be properly managed to insure that there is money to maintain the cemetery long after all the graves have been sold. To tend to this important task, our church has a Board of Cemetery Trustees appointed by our Consistory and assigned the responsibility of faithfully managing these cemeteries. This year's Board of Cemetery Trustees is made up of seven people, each serving staggered three-year terms: Ed Brooks, Jane Corby, Bill Faulkner, Erv Grant, Harris Gregory Jr., Dave Schaefer and Ken Willcox Jr., who also serves as the board's chairman. The board hires a secretary, currently Beth Worthley. It also hires a cemetery administrator, currently Clark Adams. Thank all these people when you see them. They tend to an important work for our church.

For more information on purchasing a burial plot or urn garden plot, please contact the board's Cemetery Administrator, Clark Adams, 370-0217.

## **Join Our Choir At A Bicentennial Choral Festival**

On Sunday evening, March 15 at 7:30 members of our Sanctuary Choir will join members of other area church choirs in a Choral Festival celebrating the City of Schenectady's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This concert will take place at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady in the old historic stockade area. The different choirs will not sing separately, but will join together in one large ensemble. Plan now to enjoy this evening.

## **Want To Receive The Messenger By Email?**

You may receive *The Messenger* as a PDF attachment to your email. Any home computer with Adobe Acrobat Reader software can open it (most computers come with this software installed). Get *The Messenger* by email and you'll get it sooner. You'll also save the church money for paper, photocopying and postage. To receive your newsletter by email, simply email Secretary Kathie Balser and ask her to put you on the list, [frskbalser@choiceonemail.com](mailto:frskbalser@choiceonemail.com).

If at any future time you decide that you prefer receiving a hard copy of *The Messenger* in the mail, simply call the office and we'll put you back on the mailing list.

## **Sign Up To Volunteer In The Nursery**

Nursery for infants up to four years old is offered during our 10:00 worship service. The nursery is located in the first room on the right as you leave the sanctuary. There is a rocker, changing table and many toys for the children. A registration form is on the counter for parents to complete before leaving a child in the nursery.



We thank the Westervelts for volunteering to staff the nursery during January and Kathy and Norma Drezelo for providing care in February. It has been very helpful to have families volunteer for a month, but weeks are also available beginning in March. Please see the Nursery Door to see what weeks you can help minister to our littlest ones.



**Mission  
Council  
Reports  
2008 Offerings**



This is how we supported our missions in 2008 with our regular offerings, and with our Mission of the Month and Communion Thanksgiving offerings:

Assessed RCA benevolences	\$2,836
RCA Missionaries Dick and Carolyn Otterness	\$3,577
Reformed Church World Service	\$1,287
New Brunswick Theological Seminary	\$1,000
Western Theological Seminary	\$1,000
<i>A Future With Hope</i> , Fowler capital fund drive	\$5,000
Mission of Albany Synod	\$6,940
Capital Region Theological Center	\$690
Bethesda House	\$1,577
City Mission	\$2,079
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,339
Joan Prince Community House	\$1,910
Mission Trip to Mississippi, April 2009	\$1,000
Regional Food Bank of the Northeast	\$3,662
Samaritan Counseling Center Care Fund	\$1,515
Schenectady Home Furnishings	\$779
Schenectady Inner City Food Pantry	\$1,101
Schenectady Inner City Ministries	\$2,195
Souper Bowl – SICM Food Pantries	<u>\$264</u>
<b>TOTAL MISSION GIVING</b>	<b>\$39,751</b>

Our Women's Guild for Christian Service also raises money for missions. This year, they gave to the following missions, and we thank them:

City Mission	\$400
Schenectady Inner City Food Pantry	\$400
Scotia Relief	\$445
Schenectady Home Furnishings	\$400
Habitat for Humanity	\$200
Reformed Church World Service Gifts of Hope	\$470
Mission Trip to LA, April 2009	<u>\$400</u>
	<b>\$2,715</b>

(continued on next page)

## Continued Mission Report

But that's not all. We did more than just give away money. Our special ladies redeemed bottles and cans for over \$700 for Bethesda House.

More than 20 CROP walkers raised over \$2,000 for Church World Service in May.

We volunteered many hours of our time and energy. People from our church gave significant time to Camp Fowler, Schenectady Home Furnishings, the Joan Prince House, SICM Food Pantry, Ellis Hospital, Sunnyview Rehabilitation Center, Baptist Retirement Center, Bethesda House, City Mission, and the Salvation Army.

We also gave Christmas gifts to the Northeast Parent and Child Society through the Angel Tree, mittens, hats and scarves on the Mitten Tree to the Salvation Army, toys from Circle Joanna to the Salvation Army, and gifts to families with AIDS.

Let us know other places where you volunteer in mission. Thank you for the many ways in which you support the missions of this congregation.

## February MOM Is Camp Fowler

The February Mission of the Month is the Fowler Campaign. Camp Fowler has served this congregation for more than 50 years. The Camp's ministry has been enlarged by building a new dining hall, a prayer cabin for small-group retreat, and a new route for traffic away from our living area. We have pledged \$5,000 for each of three years to the \$2 million campaign. See the flyer on the bulletin board outside Pastor Jan's office for more information. You can speak to one of the pastors if you'd like to know more about the Capital Fund Drive or go to [www.campfowler.org/master](http://www.campfowler.org/master).

Use the yellow Mission of the Month envelope in your offering box. Make your checks out to the First Reformed Church of Scotia, with "Mission of the Month – Fowler" in the memo line.

## Here Are Congregational Milestones

Here are some milestones in the lives of people in our congregation.

- Congratulations to Jamie and Catherine (Almy) Mahon on the birth of a daughter, Madeline, on December 8. The Mahons have moved back to our area from near Boston. They now live in Clifton Park.
- Congratulations to Dave and Laure Bicknell on the birth of a baby girl, Alexandra Clair who was born on January 13. Harrison is her big brother.
- We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Tom LaPrade. Tom died Wednesday, January 14 and his ashes will be interred at Saratoga National Cemetery at a later date.
- We express our sympathy to Betty Jane Blackmore and her family on the death of Betty's husband Bob.
- We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Betty Riegert, a long time member, who died in Michigan recently.

## Yoga Class Will Be Offered

Yoga is a gentle, healthful form of exercise that helps give you flexibility. We would like to offer this to our congregation. Yoga instructor Nancy Tobiessen will teach a class in Brink Hall. Plans are not final yet but we are hoping for a 10 week class at 7:00 on Sunday nights. Cost would be \$40. This would be for men and women both. All you need is to wear exercise clothes (like sweats or any stretch type fabric) and bring a yoga mat, piece of carpeting or large heavy towel big enough to sit and lie down on. Sign up on the sheet provided outside Pastor Craig's office or the one in the Narthex. We'll call you with the details when all is final. Call the church office if you have questions – 370-4751.





## *March Anniversaries*

Dick and Carol Haight	15
Scott and Kate DeThorne	18
Jack and Carol Arnold	20
Edward and Kim Rosenberg	28
Bob and Nancy Konczeski	29
Dennis and Sheryl Pelkey	30

## *March Birthdays*

Gene Bekkering	1	Kristin Libby	13
Helen Eidens	1	Anneliese Conley	16
Emily Griffith	2	Jae Schalekamp	16
Don VanPatten	2	Sharon Johnson	17
Alexandria Benedetto	3	Wayne Penn	17
Bruce Greeley	3	Jennifer Ten Eyck	17
Joya Clark	5	Stan Beran	18
Chic Gilgore	5	Bill Foos	19
Ed Brooks	6	Joe Widmer	19
Anne Fetter	7	George VanHeusen	22
Kevin Crowley	8	Beverly Canfield	23
Betty Ehreke	9	Val Morehouse	24
Michael Kilgallen	9	Megan Carpenter	25
Bob King	9	Dick Hoskinson	25
Ken Willcox III	9	Aidan Ten Eyck	25
Joan Adam	10	Kay Dixon	26
Colleen Benedetto	10	Jeff Taft	26
Georgia Grant	11	Duane VanPatten, Sr.	26
Beth Worthley	11	Eric Auger	27
John Hoffman	12	Gabriella Benedetto	31
Megan Atchley	13		

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224 N. Ballston Avenue  
Scotia, NY 12302-2599  
(518) 370-4751

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**Senior Valentine Lunch**  
**Youth Group News**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**And more!**